

**Edwards, Timothy**

---

**From:** Shannon Bates [sbates@dfw.conleyrose.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2004 11:50 AM  
**To:** Edwards, Timothy  
**Subject:** Application Serial No. 09/783,158

**October 13, 2004**

Our File No.: 1391-22400  
Serial No.: 09/783,158  
Filing Date: February 14, 2001  
For: Downlink Telemetry System

Examiner Edwards,

As you suggested, I am submitting for your consideration the following proposed amendments and comments regarding claim 74 and claim 76 of the above-referenced application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,606 to Krueger. Since email does not always show textual features, the amendments are indicated by showing additions in all capital letters and deletions using double brackets.

74. (Amended) A method for transmitting a computer command to A SURFACE TRANSMITTER THAT generateS downlink instruction signals to control a directional drilling operation at a drilling site wherein the computer command is transmitted from a location remote from the drilling site.

76. (Amended) A method for automatically drilling a well borehole at a drilling site using bi-directional downlink and uplink signaling wherein the computer commands [[to generate downlink signaling]] are transmitted either locally from the drilling site or from a location remote from the drilling site TO A SURFACE TRANSMITTER THAT GENERATES DOWNLINK SIGNALING.

The Krueger reference teaches that EITHER a surface controller 340 or a remote controller communicates DIRECTLY with a downhole controller 230 in the drilling assembly. In contrast, amended claim 74 and amended claim 76 each recite a method comprising transmitting a computer command from a location remote from the drilling site to a SURFACE TRANSMITTER that generates downlink signaling. Thus, in the claimed invention, a computer is used to send commands to a surface transmitter that then generates downlink instruction signals, whereas the Krueger reference teaches that a surface or remote controller sends commands directly to a downhole controller. Therefore, amended claim 74 and amended claim 76 are patentably distinguishable over the Krueger reference.

An Examiner's Amendment to enter the foregoing claim amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication by return email.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon W. Bates  
Registration No. 47,412  
Conley Rose, P.C.  
5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 330  
Plano, Texas 75024  
Phone (972) 731-2276  
Fax (972) 731-2289